

P. M.
China

Report

of the

Youth and Religion
Movement Mission

to

Southwest and West China

—

Spring 1939



YOUTH AND RELIGION MISSION IN CHENGTU

Reading left to right: Dr. C. S. Miao, Chairman Executive Committee, Bishop C. T. Song, Dr. Lautenschlager, Miss Shao Siu-lin, Mr. C. C. Liang.



Provincial Normal College students listening to Dr. Lautenschlager's address, Sha-ping-pa, Chungking, May 1939.

Report of the
Youth and Religion Movement Mission
to
Southwest and West China
Spring 1939

Introduction

In the light of the present conditions in China, one would not deem it feasible to conduct an organized Youth and Religion Movement Campaign in the far interior. In the first place, the on-going undeclared war, which has been waged on a scale unknown in the history of the Orient, has become the dominating factor in the life and thought of the Chinese people, especially the educated classes. Secondly, since the Central Government has made the interior centers such as Kunming, Kweiyang, Chungking and Chengtu, bases of operation and administration, the consequent extension of the war areas in Central and South China and the removal of industries and schools and the overwhelming increase of population, have shaken the foundations of the life of these cities. The mixing of the old and the new, native and outsider, has created a state of confusion. This is true not only of the community life but also of the life of the Christian churches. Thirdly, although the front lines are still quite far away from these cities, air-raids are anticipated at any moment. One air-raid on Kunming last

September caused the evacuation of all middle schools and a large number of families to the neighbouring districts. One air-raid on Kwei-yang last February devastated one fourth of the city and took a toll of more than 1,000 lives. Finally, the difficulties in travelling by motor car and even by airplane present a real problem for any scheduled work.

The Y. & R. M. Committee

However, the concentration of youth, students and non-students, in these centers presents a real challenge to all Christian forces in China. Spiritual help as well as material assistance is urgently needed. Two representatives each from the National Christian Council of China, the China Christian Educational Association and the National Committees of the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. met last winter and decided to launch a Youth and Religion Movement Mission for West and Southwest China. An Executive Committee was organized with Dr. Chester S. Miao, Executive Secretary of the C.C.E.A., as Chairman and the writer as Executive Secretary.

The Objectives of the Mission

The Mission, composed of four outstanding Christian leaders and one executive secretary, worked on the general principle that instead of short-term evangelistic campaigns the Mission would stay for a comparatively longer period of time in each city in order to attain the following objectives:

1. To conduct evangelistic activities in the interior cities among youth, students and non-students, refugees, Christians and non-Christians, in the light of our present day situation and needs.
2. To strengthen the local Christian forces, such as the Churches, Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. by helping in their regular program, opening new fields of service and enlisting new lay leadership.
3. To help introduce Christians from outside to the local Churches. The Youth and Religion Committee planned that Kunming, Kweiyang, Chungking and Chengtu should be visited.

Leadership

In a time of tragic need, the services of outstanding Christian leaders are in such great demand that they cannot possibly fulfill all requests. It became a tremendous task to enlist the leadership required. It was equally difficult to bring together these leaders, who were thousands of miles apart. We finally succeeded in getting leaders from Shanghai, Hongkong and Chengtu, Szechuan. The following personnel participated in this Mission:

Bishop C. T. Song—Bishop Song graduated from West China Union University and did his post-graduate work in Oxford and Cambridge, England. He has been professor in English literature in both West China Union University and Szechuan University and became Bishop of West

Szechuan in 1925. He is not only an outstanding church administrator, but also one of the best known evangelists to youth. He has, in his church at Chengtu, one of the largest youth congregations in China.

Prof. Stanton Lautenschlager—German descendant, fourth generation Canadian, educated in the U.S.A. and serving as a Missionary in China under the American Presbyterian Board. He was formerly professor and acting dean of Cheeloo University and is at present head of the Department of Social Sciences of the Ling-nan University, teaching history and international relations. He has proved to be not only a good teacher but also a successful Christian evangelist.

Mr. T. H. Sun—Mr. Sun is a graduate of Cheeloo University and received his M.A. in Cornell University. He has been secretary of the Mass Education Association and an officer of the Kiangsi Rural Reconstruction Bureau and is now a secretary of N.C.C. (National Christian Council). He is the founder and editor of the "Christian Farmer" which has a circulation of over forty thousand among Chinese farmers. He is well known as a lecturer in China and abroad.

Miss Shao Siu-lin—Experienced religious worker among students. She graduated from Ginling College. After many years of experience as principal, dean and re-

ligious director in several schools and secretary of the Y.W.C.A., she went first to Scarrett College and then to Chicago University for further studies and traveled in Europe. She has represented China at many International Christian Conferences. She is now religious director of the Southern Methodist Associated Middle School of East China and teacher of religion in the McTyeire School in Shanghai.

The Kunming Campaign—Mar. 22 - Apr. 6

Kunming is now a strategic national and international center of Southwest China in the light of the development of communications, industries, schools and cultural institutions. The French Indo-China-Yunnan Railway, and the Yunnan-Kweichow Highway, which are among the busiest roads in the Far East to-day, and the Burma-Yunnan Highway, the Burma-Yunnan Railway and the Yunnan-Szechuan Railway, which are now under construction, all meet at Kunming and then radiate to all the Southwest and West China provinces. The establishment of large factories and institutions of higher learning is even more striking to the visitor. The Southwest Associated University of the National Peking University and Tsing-hua University, formerly of Peiping, and Nan-kai University, formerly of Tientsin, has nearly two thousand students, most of whom are from North China and the coastal provinces. The National Yunnan University has nearly a thousand students. The Engineering School of Tung-chi University, formerly of

Shanghai, has also a student body of six hundred. The National Chung Cheng Medical College, formerly of Nanchang, has an enrollment of one hundred seventy. The National Art College has over two hundred and the College of Physical Education and the Provincial College of Agriculture each have more than one hundred students. These are all located either within or near to the city. Chungshan University, formerly of Canton, and Hwa-chung College, formerly of Wuchang, and part of the Tung-chi University are all located in the nearby secondary cities.

Besides students there are thousands of educated youth working in the Government offices, new factories, new business firms, railway and highway headquarters, post and telegraph offices, etc. The hotels and restaurants are simply crowded with people between the ages of twenty and forty. Most of them, like the students, are from North and Central China and the coastal provinces. Aside from their material needs, they need friendship, fellowship and spiritual guidance. In fact, the need is so great that the local Christian forces are quite inadequately prepared to meet it.

The Kunming Y. & R. M. Program

As far as time for local preparations was concerned, Kunming faced a great disadvantage. It was the first city visited in our itinerary. However, with the close cooperation of the church, Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. leaders, the program in general emerged much better than we had anticipated.

I. *The Series of Evangelistic Meetings*

1. Bishop C. T. Song conducted a series of four evangelistic meetings in the Zion's Church for professional youth. He spoke on "Religion and Life" with four sub-topics:

- (1) Life's Objectives and Preparations;
- (2) The Discipline and Temptations of Life;
- (3) Life's Work and Power; and
- (4) The Death of Life and the Measuring of Life.

Since all the middle schools in the city have moved to the neighbouring towns and secondary cities and the University Center is outside of the city, the audience was composed largely of educated professional youth within the city. The average attendance on the four nights was about 250, which was just the kind of group we had expected.

As a result of his four lectures 73 men and women, Christians and non-Christians, signed cards signifying their desire to study the Bible and the Christian truth further. Bishop Song then spent two afternoons after the regular series speaking on "How to Study the Bible," using printed outlines prepared in advance. There are more than forty in the study groups including seven students of the Southwest Associated University.

2. Dr. Lautenschlager's series in the Southwest Associated University—As an introduction to his series of talks, Dr. Lautenschlager spoke to the whole student body of the Associated University at a Monday Memorial Service with an attendance of about 1,000 on

"The European Crisis and the Future of the Sino-Japanese War." On three successive evenings, he spoke on (1) "The Meaning of Life"; (2) "The Meaning of Faith"; and (3) "The Meaning of Mission." Attendance at these meetings, held in one of the classrooms, was on a purely voluntary basis. On the first two evenings, there were more than 150 students present each evening. The last evening was windy, rainy, chilly and dark and it was thought that nobody would come to the meeting, because students desiring to attend would have to walk a considerable distance. To everyone's surprise, about 100 students showed up, which was a sure indication of their interest in religious subjects. Then 30 of the students stayed after the meeting and signed cards indicating their desire to organize a fellowship for religious study and Christian service.

3. Series of meetings in the Chung Cheng Medical College by Dr. Lautenschlager—After a long and difficult trip from Nanchang to Kunming, the Chung Cheng Medical College moved from the newly built, modern buildings in the erstwhile Military Capital of China, Nanchang, to the thatched sheds with dirty floors in a country place about twenty *li* (seven miles) away from the city of Kunming. This removal brought the College closer to nature, to the people and to the rural community where medical service is most needed. They lost their fine buildings but not the up-to-date scientific instruments and library for medical studies.

It was the first Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Service held since they moved to that new place. Dr. Lautenschlager was the speaker. After the meeting students interested in religious subjects were requested to stay for another meeting. About sixty, half of the total number of the students, stayed and discussed religious questions for nearly two hours. Then they asked for another meeting, which turned out to be as successful as the first one. As a result of these two meetings, 40 students, Christian and non-Christian, decided to organize a fellowship group for religious study and service. According to the latest report the membership of the fellowship has increased from forty to forty-five, and they are having regular Sunday services and study classes.

4. Series of Meetings at Tien-nan Middle School by Dr. Lautenschlager—Tien-nan is the only Christian Middle School in Kunming, opened in the fall of 1938 with about 130 students. Bishop Song, Mr. Sun and Miss Shao had separate meetings with students and with teachers. Dr. Lautenschlager gave a series of three evangelistic talks. In the last meeting 27 Christians wanted to reconsecrate themselves, 50 wanted to study Christianity, and 7 decided to become Christians.

5. A series of two lectures for the public by Dr. Lautenschlager in the Government City Auditorium—Dr. Lautenschlager spoke on the "European Situation" and the "Sino-Japanese War," respectively. Each evening the attendance was more than one thousand people.

II. *Leadership Training Classes*—Lay leadership training has been one of the main emphases of the Christian church movement during the last few years. On the Y. & R. M. Mission Miss Shao Siu-lin assumed the chief responsibility for conducting leadership training classes. She had series of meetings at the Friend's Society, the Church Missionary Society, the English Methodist Church, the Blind School, and the Y.W.C.A. group. The main emphases of the classes were on Sunday School work, religious education, youth worship, etc. These classes were more or less new for the churches in Kunming. Out of her discussions with the local leaders, some concrete projects were mapped out and the most up-to-date materials recommended. The small library of reference books of the Mission has been exceedingly useful for these classes.

III. *Lectures and Seminars*—Mr. Sun and Miss Shao gave most of their time to individual lectures in schools. The students of the Y.M.C.A. evening school and the Tien-nan School had opportunity to meet with every one of the Mission members. Mr. Sun had to travel thirty kilometers by ricksha in order to meet with the Provincial Agricultural School students. A part of the students of the Hwa Chung College enroute to Si-Chow arrived at Kunming in time to attend Bishop Song's series of meetings and to invite Dr. Lautenschlager to speak to them. The Rotary Club and the Y's Men's Club also invited our leaders to speak.

Seminars for teachers, church leaders and youth workers were conducted on various occasions.

IV. *Church Service*—On Sundays, the Mission members were all invited to preach at the Chinese and English services in different churches. These provided good opportunities for them to meet the church members.

V. *Fellowship Meeting of local Church Leaders*—This fellowship is worthy of special mention, because it had great significance in that Christian community. The Christian forces of Kunming are not particularly strong, but are widely divided into denominations and types of thought and belief. This meeting was suggested by the Bishop and called by the Y. & R. M. Committee but no one had any assurance as to how many would come. To the surprise of everybody, sixty-one leaders came, about half missionaries and half Chinese. Bishop Song spoke on the "Significance of Youth Work in the Church," Mr. Sun made a brief report on the work of the National Christian Council, and Miss Shao told the group of her experience in doing religious work among students. Bishop R. O. Hall of Hongkong, who was also visiting Kunming at the time, was invited as one of the guests. This kind of fellowship showed that Church Unity is possible, if only we can come together, forget our differences, and emphasize our common interest, common purpose and common faith in God's Kingdom.

VI. *Follow-up Projects*—The follow-up program which is just as important as the Mission's visit, was discussed in nearly every local Y. & R. M. Committee meeting. The local Committee chose responsible leaders, who are all on the follow-up Committee. Their responsibilities are divided between the city and the schools.

During the team's visit in Kunming, altogether 59 meetings were held, large and small, for students and non-students, with a total estimated attendance of 10,093 and with 136 men and women making decisions either to become Christians or to study the Christian truth or to become better Christians. According to the latest information from Dr. Wm. L. Clark of the Church of Christ in China, who is temporarily giving his time to youth work in Kunming, a Christian Fellowship with 45 foundation members was organized in the Chung Cheng Medical College after the Mission's visit. Now, they are having regular Sunday services and Bible classes and study groups. There is another fellowship organized in the Associated University with 14 members. There are from 30 to 35 professional youth enrolled in the Bible classes and study groups in the city. At least 89 students are in the follow-up fellowship groups.

VII. *General Comments on Kunming*

1. Kunming is one of the greatest student centers in China today with unlimited opportunities for Christian work. There are eight universities and colleges within and near

to the city, with more than five thousand students from practically every part of the country. On the other hand, those who are actually doing some religious work among youth are only a few visiting missionaries. Dr. Harvey F. T. Hwang of the China Bible House and Mr. Philip Lin, who is helping in the student relief work, are giving as much of their spare time as they can to student work. Nevertheless, there is a great need for increased Chinese leadership for religious work among youth in Kunming.

2. Those who know the Kunming situation would agree that the local churches have done the most difficult pioneering missionary work in years past, but are now not prepared to meet the new situation created by the on-going war. Formerly, people came to Yunnan on foot or by horse-back; but now people are coming by train, motor-car and airplane. Consequently, the churches must work with much greater speed under new leadership in order to keep abreast of the times and meet the needs as well as the challenge.

3. The university center of Kunming has been, is, and will be in the west suburb of the city. But there is not a single church in the neighbourhood which can serve the students as well as the faculty and staff members. Therefore, a student or youth church in or near the school center is greatly needed.

4. Missions in East and Central China have sent several church workers to help the local churches, though not necessarily for youth work.

5. Students in Kunming as well as elsewhere are greatly in need of fellowship. This does not mean that they are not close enough to each other physically, for they are over-crowded in their limited class-rooms and dormitories. Physical contacts without a common faith, common interest and a common purpose will not produce fellowship. The world has so many problems, because, physically, people are so close together and, spiritually, so far apart. I was told by many of them that there are so many students together, yet they are still feeling lonesome.

The Kweiyang Campaign—April 11-20

Kweichow, which used to be one of the most backward and poorest provinces, has become one of the most promising districts in China. The opening of highways has made Kweichow the center of communications in Southwest and West China. At present there are still 120,000 men engaged in building more roads, in order to complete the provincial, national and international network of highways. Driving from Yunnan to Kweichow, one cannot but be impressed by the man power of China which has made it possible for the roads to cross high mountains and deep valleys without modern engineering equipment. If the Great Wall of China is one of the wonders of the world, the highways in the mountainous Southwest and West China should be another.

Agriculture, mining, industry, trade and education are all developing scientifically and systematically and making progress by leaps

and bounds under expert leadership. Take education for example. Four years ago, the provincial budget was only Ch\$300,000 a year for the schools, and there was not a single college in the whole province. Now, in time of war when money is needed everywhere, they are spending Ch\$1,400,000 a year for education and they have two universities, namely, the Great China University, formerly of Shanghai, and University of Communications, formerly of Tang Shan, and two colleges, the National Kweiyang Medical College and the Hsiangya Medical College, formerly of Changsha, besides the military and political schools and schools for public health workers and nurses under the Central Government.

Kweiyang is the capital of the province situated in the heart of the mountains. It is quite a unique city in many ways. With wide streets, high buildings, prosperous business conditions, Kweiyang is a modern city in a backward province. The writer paid his first visit to that city a year ago in connection with the establishment of a new Y.M.C.A. and made his second visit there last fall. This last visit made with the Y. & R. M. Mission was his third one, when he found that recent bombings had changed the whole appearance of the city. The most congested and prosperous business section exists no longer and is absolutely unrecognizable. In fact, one fourth of the city has been wiped out by Japanese bombs. Walking block after block, one finds nothing but ruins, debris, ashes, evidences of

destruction of property and of more than one thousand lives of civilians.

Due to urgent calls, Bishop Song and Mr. Sun had to fly back to Chengtu. Therefore, for Kweiyang and later for Chungking, we had only Dr. Lautenschlager, Miss Shao and the writer on the Mission team.

The Kweiyang Y. & R. M. Program

I. *Round Table Conference with Local Christian Leaders*—Reports on the local church, educational, social and political conditions by the local leaders served as an excellent background for the Mission leaders to understand the local situation.

II. *Series of Public Evangelistic Meetings*—Kweiyang is, comparatively speaking, not a large city, and there are not many things going on in the city proper. Therefore, it is easier to have effective publicity work there and to call people together for meetings. The meeting place was the auditorium of the People's Educational Center, the largest hall in the city. Dr. Lautenschlager spoke on (1) The Crisis in Europe; (2) The Future of the Sino-Japanese War; (3) The World's Hopes and Needs of Today and (4) Christ and His Cross.

The subjects of the first two nights were naturally attractive to all educated people. The hall was packed with one thousand people, with another five hundred more standing outside of the windows which had been completely blown out by bombs. We had thought that there would not be very many people

coming to the third and fourth meetings, especially the last one, which dealt with clearly a religious subject. Contrary to expectations, there were just as many people present as at the first two meetings, even though the evenings were dark and rainy and the streets muddy. Many students had to walk several miles from outside of the city to these meetings.

After each meeting those who would like to ask questions were requested to stay for an after-meeting. Each evening, more than 800 stayed for another hour or so. In the last meeting, many people were greatly moved by the message on the life and death of Jesus Christ. More than 150 men and women, mostly college students and young military officers, made decisions either to study the Bible or to become Christians or to become better Christians.

III. Individual Lectures—On the two Mondays during the Mission's visit in Kweiyang, Dr. Lautenschlager and Miss Shao were both invited by the Great China University, National Kweiyang Medical College and the Hsiang Ya Medical College to speak to their whole student bodies and faculty members at their Memorial Services. The appreciation shown assured the team that they liked the inspirational talks on service, love and sacrifice, although the lecturers did not speak directly on religious subjects.

The Great China University called a special meeting for its two hundred women

students and invited Miss Shao to speak to them. She spoke on "My Religious Faith" which aroused deep interest.

IV. *Discussion Groups*—Miss Shao had a series of four discussion meetings with Christian women leaders on "Religion and the Home." She also had a session with the Sunday School teachers. The whole team had a half day devotions and discussions with the Christian student leaders of Hsiang Ya University, Great China University and Kweiyang Medical College.

V. *Sunday Services*—The China Inland Mission, the Church Missionary Society and the Seventh Day Adventist Churches invited all the Mission members to preach for their Chinese and English services.

VI. *A Whole Day Retreat*—The retreat took place in the wood land hills a few miles south of the city. There were present more than thirty men and women, including students, teachers, doctors, nurses and church leaders and Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. secretaries. Dr. Lautenschlager gave a lecture on "Faith and Mission." In the afternoon, there was a period of sharing of religious experiences, led by Rev. C. T. Tsai. In the quiet and beauty of nature, God and Jesus our Lord seemed to be very near to us.

VII. *The Follow-up Program*—After the series of public meetings, the enquirers, or those who had signed cards, were requested to meet in the Y.M.C.A. with the local Christian leaders. More than eighty people, men and

women, including a few Government school teachers, were present. Dr. Lautenschlager spoke to them again on "How to Become a Christian." Then, they decided to meet again the following evening not to listen to any of the team members, but to become better acquainted with the leaders of the different churches. Thus, everyone of the eighty enquirers became affiliated with some one church.

VIII. *General Comments*

1. The Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. had conducted good foundation work among these college students. Each school has its own Student Association or Christian Fellowship organized with the full cooperation of the school authorities. Besides worship, their social service program and extra-curricular social activities have won great appreciation and respect from their teachers as well as their fellow-students.

2. The established churches in Kweiyang are facing the same problem as churches elsewhere. They do not have well-prepared Chinese leadership, so it is rather difficult for them to keep up with and meet the needs of the new emergency.

3. The establishment of the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. last year and the coming of two new churches under the auspices of C.M.S. (Church Missionary Society) and C.C.C. (Church of Christ in China), respectively, with most capable and energetic young leaders, have given great re-inforcement to the Christian community. They have already

made good contacts with Government circles, the colleges and the community in general. Thus, Kweiyang is one of the most promising places for Christian work in the interior.

4. During the ten days' visit at Kweiyang, we had altogether 27 meetings of all sorts with a total attendance of 9,057. The program was very well arranged. There was plenty of time for the Mission members to have personal interviews and personal calls.

5. Finally, the Catholic Mission has had a history of 90 years in Kweiyang but the community in general knows little about Catholicism. The Protestant Mission has a history of more than 60 years, yet it is reported that there are really not more than twenty native Christian families in the whole city. It is important for the new churches to look after the Christians who have been compelled by war to move there from the outside. It is even more important to expand and develop the Christian Mission among the local people who will become the real foundation of these interior churches in the future.

The Chungking Campaign—April 25-May 8

The term "West China" usually applies to Szechuan Province, which is as large as Germany in both territory and population. Szechuan is noted for the natural beauty of its mountains and rivers. Its historical glory, which has for several decades been in eclipse by militarists, has come back to it again, since it came under the direct control of the Central Government, as a most important base in the

war of resistance against the Japanese invasion. It has supplied manpower as well as raw materials and is continuing to do so without limit. Its fertile soil in the valleys as well as on the mountain tops is all cultivated and irrigated. It controls the upper Yangtze River, standing between the Southwest and Northwest and serving as the backbone of the Chinese Republic.

Chungking, the war-time capital of China, is located in the lower part of Szechuan. Military and political orders and diplomatic statements in international affairs in this emergency time emanate from this city. Besides, it is also an industrial, financial, commercial, cultural and educational center. The Yangtze and the Kialing Rivers flowing on both sides of the city, and the surrounding mountains make Chungking a gorgeous and impressive sight.

Chungking was bombed on May 3, 4, 12 and 25, during and immediately following the Y. & R. M. Campaign. Modern warfare can change a beautiful prosperous city into debris, ashes, ruins and the living human beings into pieces of flesh, drops of blood and charcoal. The Chungking bombings have taken a toll of from 5,000 to 10,000 lives. However, not a single Government or civil leader was injured or killed, nor was a single military establishment touched. Those who suffered were the common people. Bombing of non-combatants can only increase hatred and indefinitely prolong the war. So much for the description of the general situation in Chungking.

The Y. & R. M. Program

I. *Round Table Conference with Local Leaders*—Mr. Wang Tse-Han, General Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., reported on the social and economic conditions in Chungking. Among the many things mentioned by him was the fact that the coming of the Central Government and the well-to-do refugees has increased the income of the local labouring and professional classes, but money has spoiled them morally. Mr. Cheng Tze-Hsiu reported on the local church problems. Miss Tsui Ya-Han, student secretary of the Y.W.C.A., reported on the student situation and the students' problems. Before the war there were only *twenty-seven* middle schools and *two* colleges in the city, of which seven belonged to the Missions. Since the outbreak of the war, the middle schools have increased to *thirty-four* and the universities and colleges to *six*. As to religious work, the authorities of the colleges and universities are very sympathetic and cooperative; and the students are open-minded. What they need is mature leadership and outside assistance.

There were about forty Christian leaders present in that Conference.

II. *Series of Meetings*

1. *The City Series*—The meetings were held in the Institutional Church with Dr. Lautenschlager as the main speaker. He spoke on (1) "Christianity and the Crisis of our Present World;" (2) "Faith and Life in Time of Emergency" and (3) "The Meaning of the

Cross." On the first evening there were more than 800 people present. On the second and third evenings, more than 1,000. At the second meeting, more than 400 Christians stood up to rededicate their lives and 25 non-Christians wished to study the Christian truth and to become Christians.

2. There was another series of three meetings conducted by Dr. Lautenschlager for Nankai Middle School students, with a voluntary attendance of about 120 at each meeting.

3. A series of three meetings conducted also by Dr. Lautenschlager for Central University and Chungking University students. The attendance was largely made up of Christians, averaging 150 each evening.

III. *Lectures*—There were two public lectures in the Y.M.C.A., one for professional youth and the other for organized skilled labourers on May 1st, Labour Day. More than one lecture was given in every Christian Middle School which was located not too far away from the city. The Memorial Services in different universities and colleges afforded excellent opportunities for the Mission members to meet with the whole student bodies. Miss Shao had special opportunities to speak to girls' or women's groups, and Dr. Lautenschlager to service or luncheon clubs.

IV. *Sunday Services*—More calls were received from the churches to preach to their congregations than could possibly be accepted.

V. Discussions and Seminars—Several series of discussion meetings were held with church leaders, men and women, and students. Following the lectures for students, there was a period for questions and discussion.

VI. The Follow-up Work Projects—Altogether 49 meetings were held with a total attendance estimated at 11,181. A total of 525 Christians rededicated their lives and 164 decided to study Christianity.

In schools, the religious and student work secretaries of the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. are taking the responsibility with the help of teachers and voluntary leaders. A certain amount of money has been set aside by the Chungking Y. & R. M. Committee for travelling expenses of the leaders from outside and for some program activities, because practically all the schools are located some distance from the city.

The follow-up program in the city has been seriously interrupted by bombing. People have scattered. The tenor of life in the city has been disturbed. The Government is trying to limit the population by issuing living permits only to those who have duties in the city, which means a total of about 150,000. However, the follow-up work has by no means been given up. The leaders have divided up the inquirers' names according to different sections of the city, and are calling upon them. This is the time when they need friendship, fellowship and assistance of one kind or another more than ever.

VII. *General Comments*

1. There is not a single Christian college in Chungking; but all the non-Christian schools are wide open for Christian work. Miss Tsui Ya-han has done splendid work among students. She has interest in every student group and the courage and confidence to deal with any of the educational leaders and is the moving spirit of all the college Christian student activities. This shows how much one trained youth worker can do, if he or she is heart and soul in the work.

2. The Christian Fellowship in the branch school of the Central University, which has 600 freshmen, was organized spontaneously. It came about in this way. One Christian student singing a hymn in his room was heard by other Christians. Thereupon they got together and organized a Fellowship. This fellowship has ninety members, of whom only fifty are Christians. This shows that even non-Christians are interested in a Christian group. The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed which is the smallest of seeds but which grows into a big tree.

3. It is no exaggeration to say that few of the local churches are prepared to deal with the educated groups of the city. They must, therefore, be greatly reinforced to face the new day with its opportunities.

4. By co-incidence, the Central Government had just inaugurated a National Spiritual Mobilization Movement with a most impressive ceremony, followed by a torch parade

participated in by 200,000 people on May 1st last, when the Y. & R. M. Mission was visiting the war-time capital. The religious speeches or lectures were considered as the real mobilization of the spirit of youth for the sake of justice, truth and peace.

5. The successive ruthless bombings did affect the follow-up projects in the city. Fortunately, the city program was nearly completed when the bombings took place. The bombings did not affect the work in the schools which are located about 10 miles from the city.

6. Christians from practically every part of the country, now living in Chungking, have organized a Fellowship which meets regularly in the Institutional Church. This Fellowship has made a wonderful contribution, because it can call the outstanding lay leaders together for the service of the local churches. It has more than eighty members. The Mission had the pleasure and privilege of meeting with them and reporting to them on our work in other cities.

The Chengtu Campaign—May 11-25

After two days' strenuous travel in an open truck exposed to the heat of the sun on the first day and to rain on the second, the Y. & R. Team arrived at Chengtu on scheduled time. Chungking has become famous, because it is an inland river port which has recently become the war-time capital of China; but Chengtu has been famous for thousands of years, because it was the capital of the West

Han Dynasty, one of the famous Three Kingdoms in Chinese history. Chengtu resembles Peiping in that it is a typical ancient Chinese city. The buildings are not high, the streets, with a few exceptions, are not wide. Different craft shops are to be found in certain sections of the city, which take one back to the Medieval Ages, with its guild system. Chengtu, a quiet and clean city, is the capital of Szechuan Province, being known as "Little Peking."

Chengtu City is in the heart of the fertile Chengtu basin, with the most ancient irrigation system in China, built over two thousand years ago by a Chinese engineer named Lee Ping. Thanks to this irrigation system, with ditches, canals and dams, Chengtu has never suffered from floods or droughts during the last two thousand years and has become one of the most densely populated and well-to-do rural districts in the world.

Originally, the Y. & R. M. Mission did not include Chengtu in its itinerary. Since the outbreak of hostilities Chengtu has, next to Shanghai, become the second largest Christian educational center in China. The University of Nanking and Ginling College, formerly of Nanking, Cheeloo University of Tsinan, and the Biology Department of Soochow University are all in the compound of West China Union University. In addition, the Medical College of Central University has also joined this group of universities. In fact, the Christian community in the city has become quite strong, with the well established Canadian Mission,

Church Missionary Society, Methodist E. Mission, China Inland Mission, etc. The city is full of outstanding Christian institutions and leaders, both local and from the outside.

However, the Chengtu leaders insisted that we must pay their city a visit. Before their invitation was definitely accepted, they had already organized a local Y. & R. M. Committee with representatives from all the Christian forces in the city. The earnestness of the call made the Mission decide to accept. So the Mission had the privilege and opportunity of visiting this Christian stronghold in Szechuan.

The Local Y. & R. M. Program

I. The Orientation Conferences — The local leaders were so thoughtful that they gave the mission members opportunity to meet with the Program Committee, the youth workers, and the Christian student leaders separately. The Program Committee laid the whole program before the Mission in order to get their suggestions on their local program in the light of past experience. From the youth workers we learned their interpretations on the youth situation and youth problems. The student leaders told us of their own problems and what they expected from the Mission's visit. These conferences proved most helpful and valuable to the Y. & R. M. Campaign.

II. Series of Meetings

1. A series of four lectures was given by Dr. Lautenschlager for the students of the

Christian universities. He used more or less the same subjects which he had used in other cities.

2. A series at Kwanghua University, formerly of Shanghai, which is now about five miles outside of the city of Chengtu. It is a private institution, yet the teachers and students suspended their classes in the first period of the day for four days in succession in order to have the whole student body and staff attend the lectures. On the first morning, 400 students of college grade attended. On the following three mornings three hundred senior middle school students were added to the audience. In the last meeting, Dr. Lautenschlager spoke on "Christ and Christianity in History." The students listened just as attentively to this lecture as they had to the other lectures. Then the Christians were asked to stay for a short conference, in which the significance of Christian fellowship was discussed. A few days later, before the Mission left Chengtu, it was reported that a Christian fellowship had been organized in Kwanghua University.

3. A series of public lectures in the city for professional youth. The regular attendance each evening was not more than seven hundred, but when Dr. Lautenschlager spoke on "The Future of the Sino-Japanese War," more than one thousand came to the meeting. Air bombing has been very effective in making these people war-conscious.

As a result of the city series, *thirty-five* Christians, men and women, made decisions to re-dedicate their lives for Christ and *thirty-three* non-Christians made decisions to study Christianity or to become Christians.

4. A series of lectures essentially on religious subjects was given for the more than 300 students of the middle school of the W.C.U.U. (West China Union University). There was a special period for answering questions asked by the students.

5. A series of three lectures for the Hwa Mei Girls' Middle School which has moved ten miles outside of the city and which has a student body of about 400. We had to meet with them the first class period of the day in the open air, for they do not have an assembly hall. In the last meeting, there were 43 Christian students signing cards signifying their desire to become better Christians, 49 non-Christians wanted to become Christians and 43 wanted to study the Bible.

III. *Individual Lectures*—Practically all the schools, including the different colleges of the National Szechuan University, invited the Mission members to lead their Memorial Services for the late Dr. Sun Yat-sen or to give special lectures. The faculty groups, special student groups, Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. staffs and boards, doctors and nurses, social and service clubs all invited the Mission members to address them.

IV. *Sunday Services*—On Sundays, the Mission members were busy speaking in various churches.

V. *Leadership Training Classes*—There were two sessions for Sunday School leaders.

VI. *Discussions*—As so many large meetings were going on, there were not as many small group discussions as had been expected. However, several interesting meetings with faculty members, youth workers and student groups were held.

VII. *Follow-up Work Projects*—Altogether 57 meetings were held in Chengtu with a total estimated attendance of 14,024. There were 17 Christians who made decisions to rededicate their lives for Christ, and 228 made decisions either to become Christians or to study the Christian truth. The leading youth and student workers in the city are included in the Follow-up Work Committee. The Committee have met several times and divided their responsibilities in different schools and churches and in different sections of the city.

VIII. *Comments*

1. The Chengtu program was the heaviest of all local programs. The city is certainly the largest field for Christian work among youth, students and non-students, in West China.

2. The time of the team's visit was not a very favorable one. As far as the schools were concerned, it was approaching the end of the Spring term. There were so many things going on that it was rather difficult for them to concentrate on this Y. & R. M. Campaign. As far as the city was concerned,

the people had been ordered by the Government to move out of the city. This order applies especially to the schools in order to avoid unnecessary loss of lives in case of air-raids. Therefore, thousands of people and tons of furniture were moving out of the city everyday by car, by truck, by wheel-barrow, by ricksha as well as on human backs.

3. Although there are so many Christian institutions and leaders in Chengtu, yet there is still room for better organization and more careful planning for student work. The Y.W.C.A. did its part with their student secretary Miss Shih Ju-chang, who served as the local executive secretary of the Y. & R. M.

4. From different reports one gathered that the active Christian students are rather weak in their religious devotions, while the devoted Christians, most of whom belong to a so-called "Little Flock Group," are not interested in social service nor in the life, work and fellowship of the church.

5. Six units of university faculty members and students working and living together in one compound is by no means an easy thing. The generosity and hospitality of the host institution, the W.C.U.U. with Dr. Lincoln Tseng as President, and the considerateness of the guest institutions have combined to bring about excellent fellowship. This would be impossible without the spirit of Christ.

6. After the Chengtu Campaign, Dr. Lautenschlager, accompanied by a few local

Christian leaders made a special trip to Chin-tang to visit the Oberlin School in China, which was originally located in Shansi. This school has 280 students and about 40 faculty members. They suspended their classes for a whole day and had six meetings of various kinds with the visitors. As a result, 39 students decided to become better Christians, 34 to become Christians and 79 to study Christianity. This shows that these refugee schools, isolated from the large cities, do need and welcome outside help even more than do the schools in or near the large cities on the main lines of communication.

Conclusion

It was a great joy and privilege for the writer to serve as the national executive secretary of the Y. & R. M. Mission. As a Y. & R. M. Secretary of the National Committee Y.M.C.A., he has had experience in managing and conducting Dr. G. S. Eddy's Campaigns in 1934, the Y. & R. M. Deputation in 1935, the East China Region Y. & R. M. Deputation in 1936 and the six Regional Youth Workers Retreats held throughout the country in 1937; but his experience this time has been the hardest and yet the most interesting and unique for the following reasons: First, it was under the joint auspices of the four national Christian organizations mentioned in the introduction, that this evangelistic program was undertaken. The fine spirit of cooperation on the part of all parties concerned and their faith and love for youth have made it possible to

secure the leadership and financial support for this undertaking. Secondly, due to the war situation, travelling is exceedingly difficult and the general situation is very uncertain. Nevertheless, the Mission was able to follow its travel schedule exactly without missing a single day, without meeting a single mishap, and without having had to cancel a single meeting, despite the fact that busses and trucks were overcrowded.

Finally, in behalf of the National Y. & R. M. Committee and the Mission, the Mission members wish to express their deepest appreciation and heartiest gratitude to all the community and church leaders, youth workers, college presidents, school principals, teachers and Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. leaders with whom they have had contact in the four cities visited, for their kind hospitality and hearty cooperation. They also want to thank Mr. Li Jui as well as the several organizations who shared in financing this Mission and also the China Presbyterian Council, who financed the entire trip of Dr. Lautenschlager. Above all, let us return thanks to God and our Lord Jesus Christ. With His guidance and inspiration, the Mission has made His Name known and proclaimed the Gospel message to more than 50,000 educated youth in China in a short period of nine weeks.

C. C. LIANG,

Executive Secretary.